REMARKS

The September 19, 2007 Office Action regarding the above-identified application has been carefully considered; and the claim amendments above together with the remarks that follow are presented in a bona fide effort to respond thereto and address all issues raised in that Action. The independent claims have been amended and new dependent claims presented, to more clearly distinguish over the art in a manner intended to address certain comments on patentability in the latest Office Action. For reasons discussed below, it is believed that this case is in condition for allowance. Prompt favorable reconsideration of this amended application is requested.

Care has been taken to avoid entry of new matter. The independent claims have been amended to indicate that the picture information is a received user input and relates to conversion of image data from the camera to produce a desired image via the external image forming apparatus or via the external device. Also, dependent claims have been added to specify examples of types of user selected picture conversion information. It is submitted that support for the claim amendments, including the new dependent claims should be readily apparent from the original written description, such as the examples given on page 27 (lines 7-18) of the specification. Hence, it is submitted that the amended/new claims find adequate enabling and descriptive support in the original application disclosure and do not introduce new subject matter.

The previously pending claims, claims 43 and 44, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by US patent no. 6,300,976 to Fukuoka. The comments on pages 2 and 3 indicate that the continued rejection relies on a broad interpretation of "picture information" recitations of the claims, under which such terms encompass the I/O function information (referred to as I/O control files in the patent, e.g. column 7, lines 26-28) used to control output of particular files to printers or other devices, in Fukuoka. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims

43 and 44 more narrowly define the picture information in a manner that distinguishes over Fukuoka.

Each of the independent claims recites that the camera includes a picture information input means, for receiving a user input of picture information. As recited this user input is information regarding conversion of image data. Each claim also recites a converting/sending means for converting image data in the camera into converted image data, which it sends to an external device or external image forming apparatus. The conversion is done according to the picture information, specifically to enable the external device or apparatus to form the desired image using the converted image data.

The Fukuoka camera 30 includes a card connector 17 and an input/output (I/O) card 15. The I/O card 15 allows images, audio, and control information to be transmitted into and out of the camera 30. See column 2, lines 57-62. Transfers through the I/O card 15 and connected 17 are controlled by I/O control files. The description of these files and the related function, from the text cited by the rejection (from column 7, lines 51-65) reads as follows:

> FIG. 9 is a block diagram showing an example of the organization of files within the memory card 16. As the memory card 16 will be readable by a personal computer such as an IBM compatible or Macintosh compatible computer, the files will be stored according to the corresponding file format such as a DOS format used with IBM PC compatible computers. The memory card 16 contains three images files 60a-60c, two audio file 61a and 61b, and two input/output control files 62a and 62b. As an alternative to storing the illustrated files in the memory card 16, these files may also be stored in the I/O card 15. **The I/O control files are used to indicate the type of files and other information regarding how the files are arranged and how to read the files.** In order for the camera to read and utilize new file formats, the I/O control files may be transferred to the rewritable and optional routine section 54 of the CPU. **These I/O control files may also store conventional DOS or Macintosh file format information.** As the camera can receive I/O control files, it does not have to be pre-programmed with every different type of control file which can reduce the expense of the camera and the amount of memory needed in the camera.
>
> When a card is inserted into the camera, the camera may prompt the operator to select the appropriate I/O or memory functions. Additionally, the

> control program in the card is transferred to the rewritable and optional routines section 54 of the control program storing area 51 of the CPU 23. FIG. 10 is a flowchart showing the process performed after a card is inserted into the camera. After the card is inserted into the camera, step Si determines the type of I/O card and other properties of the card. Once the type is determined, separate operations are performed depending upon the type of card. Step S2 indicates the type of card which is inserted such as a LAN card, a modem card, a SCSI card, or a flash memory card. performed and the optimum construction of the hardware operation is established from the effective operational environment in step S3. Next, the cards are initialized by register initialization which corresponds to the particular type of I/O card in step S4. The process then ends. At any time during the process illustrated in FIG. 10, the control program is transferred from the I/O card to the memory within the camera. After the process illustrated in FIG. 10 is performed, whenever the camera performs an I/O function, the CPU 23 executes the protocol control of the respective I/O card in accordance with the loaded control program so that the camera can transmit and/or receive image data, audio data, status information, and/or commands. As an alternative, it is possible to execute the I/O control program within the card without transferring the control program to the camera. (Emphasis added)

It is respectfully submitted that I/O files that may allow a camera to output image data to different types of external devices is not enough to meet the amended claim recitations regarding user input of picture information regarding conversion to produce a desired image via the external device or apparatus. Mere user selection of I/O functions such as file, file type or port, when a card is inserted into the camera, is not enough. As claimed, the user input information relates to "conversion of image data from the camera to produce a desired image," and the converting/sending means actually converts the image data according to the user input information so as to enable the external apparatus or device to form the desired image. It is submitted that Fukuoka all requirements of amended claims 43 and 44.

The new dependent claims further distinguish over Fukuoka. Both of claims 45 and 46 specifically recite that the picture information comprises information regarding one or more of: form size, image orientation, image resolution, image magnification, and an offset value. Fukuoka's I/O files do not fall within the scope of the picture information recited in these claims. It appears that the Examiner recognizes this distinction (see page 3 of the Detailed Action). For

this additional reason, claims 45 and 46 should be patentable over the art.

In view of the above-discussed distinctions of claims 43-46 over Fukuoka, none of the claims are anticipated by that patent and the art rejection over Fukuoka should be withdrawn.

Upon entry of the above claim amendments, claims 43-46 are active in this application, all of which should be patentable over the art applied in the Action. Applicant therefore submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, this case should now be ready to pass to issue; and Applicant respectfully requests a prompt favorable reconsideration of this matter.

It is believed that this response addresses all issues raised in the September 19, 2007 Office Action. However, if any further issue should arise that may be addressed in an interview or by an Examiner's amendment, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Applicant's representative at the number shown below.

To the extent necessary, if any, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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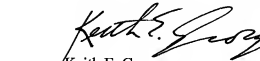

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